[English]

Assistance to Malabar University

2412. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from Government of Kerala for financial assistance to new University in Malabar located at Kannur Distt. of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c). University Grants Commission (UGC) provides development grants only to those State Universities which have been recognised by the Commission as per the Regulations framed under Section 26 (1) (d) of the UGC Act and declared fit to receive such grants as per the Rules notified under Section 12-B of the UGC Act. According to the information furnished by UGC. Kannur University has not yet been declared eligible by UGC to receive development grants from the Commission.

Water Table in Punjab

2413 SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study by the Delhi University and the World Resources Institute of Washington showed that the Water Table in Punjab is dropping by one metre per year due to the excessive extraction of ground water, and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The Government is not aware of any study conducted by the Delhi University and the World Resources Institute, Washington regarding water table in Punjab. However, a paper prepared by Dr. R.P.S. Malik and Paul Faeth for World Resources Institute has come to the notice of the Government The authors of this paper have estimated declining changes ranging from 0.83 metres to 1.22 metres in the water table in the Ludhiana District of Punjab.

(b) The study conducted by the Central Ground Water Board has also revealed a decline of 4 to 5 metres in the level of ground water in some districts of Punjab The Central Ground Water Board has prepared a Manual on Artifical Recharge of ground water which has been circulated to all the State Governments. The Government has also circulated a Model Bill to the States/Union Territories to enable them to bring out suitable legislation for control and regulation of ground water development.

[Translation]

National Health Policy to Check Epidemic

2414. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government propose to formulate an effective integrated National Health Policy in order to properly check the spread of epidemics one after the other in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government have also received suggestions or requests from some social organisations in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon so far; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). The National Health Policy 1983 enunciates the priorities of the Government in the health sector and the measures to be taken to implement the Policy. The containment of communicable diseases through effective surveillance preventive action and the formulation of contingency plans to be able to tackle outbreaks and epidemics are already available in the Disaster management programme. as well as, individual guidelines circulated to all States/ Union Territories for specific diseases. In the Ninth Five Year Plan imphasis has been placed on improved surveillance and public health aspects of health management.

(c) No specific suggestion or requests from social organisations have been received in this Ministry.

(d) to (f). Does not arise.

[English]

Nurul Hasan Institute of Medical Science

2415. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far for the construction of the Nurul Hasan Institute of Medical Science at Kalyani, West Bengal;

(b) the amount sanctioned during the current financial year for construction and other purposes;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed to complete the construction;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the institute is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Passports for CIS Countries

2416. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the students, who intend to go to the countries of the C.I.S. (Former U.S.S.R.), experience difficulties in obtaining passport which is not experienced by the students who go to other countries for higher studies; and

(b) if so, the measures that have been taken to minimise their difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Applications of students who are going abroad for higher studies are considered sympathetically for expeditious issue of passports to them. However, in cases of students intending to study in the countries of C.I.S., the admission letters issued by their colleges/universities are required to be attested by the concerned Indian mission confirming their authenticity on the basis of which passports are then issued to such students on urgent basis. This procedure has been adopted as admission letters are often in Russian, from institutions not well known in India, making their misuse possible by persons who are not bona fide students. It, therefore, ensures that letters of admission are genuine and from viable institutions.

Ground Water

2417. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board had set-up S.U.O. in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh in 1995 on the recommendations of a high Level Committee for growth and development of the ground water resources in the 27 districts of Western Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the works undertaken by this unit so far; and

(c) whether this unit is likely to be shifted somewhere else and if so the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Consequent on opening of Regional Office at Patna on the basis of High Level Multi-disciplinary Committee's recommendations the State Unit Office of Patna was shifted to Bareilly.

(b) The State Unit Office of Bareilly has so far undertaken reappraisal hydrogeological survey, ground water level monitoring and ground water exploration in some parts of western Uttar Pradesh.

(c) It was decided to shift the State Unit Office Bareilly to Allahabad. However, keeping in view the size or the State, number of districts and the population, the decision has been reviewed. It has now been decided to retain the State Unit Office at Bareilly and in addition open another State Unit Office at Allahabad to look after the work of eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Social Conditions of Women

2418. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh had sent a proposal to improve the economic and social conditions of women in 10 districts of the State with the help of external funding from European Community;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal is still pending with the Union Government;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be cleared

(e) whether the duration of the project was 7 years from 1995 onwards; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (e). Income-generating activities are proposed in the areas of Khadi and Village Industries, Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Agricultural Engineering. Total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 153.29 crores. The project was proposed to be implemented from 1995 for a period of 7 years.

(c) to (f). The Government of India can only pose a proposal for external funding. Its clearance depends on the priorities of the external funding agency.

[Translation]

Water for Irrigation

2419. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the utilisation and availability of water for irrigation as on date in the country, particularly in Adivasi and Tribal areas of Gujarat; and

(b) the details of the irrigation capacity enhanced during the last five years and the amount spent in Gujarat thereon?